Clan of Santas delivers for Meals on Wheels- Page 8

FORT ERIE

Times

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Saturday, December 26, 2009 www.forterietimes.ca Volume113 Number 48

Laura Gainey, RBC Canada's regional director for southwestern Ontario carries the Olympic Torch on Jarvis Street on Monday.

Olympic torch relay ignites sense of community pride

KRIS DUBÉ
Times Staff

The local community has officially been diagnosed with Olympic fever.

On Monday, thousands of people gathered along Jarvis Street and other spots along the torch relay route to catch a glimpse of perhaps one of the most prolific symbols in Canada right now.

In its 53rd day of the cross-Canada tour, the Olympic torch arrived in Fort Erie before 8 a.m. at the corner of Phipps and Crooks Streets before heading to a community stop in the downtown core, where it was welcomed by a huge crowd of people showing their pride for their home-country and the small town they reside in.

Mayor Doug Martin said it was not only a great experience holding the torch for a few moments, but was quite pleased to see the downtown area filled with cheering fans who took time out of their day to join the celebration. He said it is events like this that bring out an overwhelming amount of civic and community pride from people and witnessing it, truly is remarkable.

"The amount of people that came out to show their support was great. It was absolutely fabulous," said Martin.

One of the people chosen to be a torchbearer in Niagara was Ted Van Geest, a St. Catharines resident. He said this is one of the best opportunities he has ever been given in his time and he will cherish it forever. Although he only carried the torch for a short distance, being able to say he played a role in the relay is something he will never be able to forget.

"The amount of people that came out to show their support was great. It was absolutely fabulous."

-Mayor Doug Martin

"It's only a short period of time, but this is an experience of a lifetime," he said.

When 76-year-old Fort Erie resident Louis Szilagyi heard about the torch relay coming to town, he immediately planned to attend the celebration and show his support for Canada's Olympians, while displaying his pride for the community he has lived in for many years.

"I'll never see it again... maybe my grandchildren will, but I wasn't going to miss it. That's for sure," he said.

continued on page 2

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Town deserves thanks for showing Olympic support

continued from page 1

He said anyone who could be found on Jarvis Street or along another section of the route deserves a medal for taking time out of their schedule to participate in what he feels is an extremely historical event for the town.

"I'm so happy to see all the people who came out to welcome the torch. It's really great," said Szilagyi.

Al Stouffer, the Town's community liaison estimates about 2,500 people took part in welcoming the torch and its carriers. He agrees everyone who attended should be very proud of the community spirit they showed during the relay's stop in Fort Erie, especially on a Monday morning in cold weather.

"I think everyone in town needs to be thanked for coming out. It was a good all-out effort by everybody," said Stouffer.

Ward 1 Coun. Sandy Annunziata participated as a torchbearer in Niagara Falls on Sunday, saying it was an experience that will leave an imprint on him for the rest of his life. Annunziata has many athletic accomplishments under his belt, including two Grey Cup wins in the Canadian Football League. He feels his role in the torch relay easily compares to those achievements but seeing over 2,000 people gather in the historic Bridgeburg area is "priceless."

"When you talk about a good thing happening to a great neighbourhood, you can't put that into words," said Annunziata.

Felicia Horinga, left, Lauren Horinga and James Horinga showing their Canadian pride at Monday's Olympic torch relay along Jarvis Street.

Olypic torchbearer Ted Van Geest, right, with 10-year-old Kasey O'Hara on Jarvis Street on Monday. All torchbeares were given the chance to purchase a replica of the famous international symbol.

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Hudak and Craitor discuss fall session in provincial legislature

KRIS DUBÉ
Times Staff

The Ontario Progressive Conservative party made good progress in the fall session of the provincial legislature, says leader and Fort Erie native Tim Hudak.

His party considers it to be a session defined by the contrast of the unified, energized and spirited Ontario PC caucus to an out-of-touch and tired McGuinty Liberal government.

In the session, Hudak says there were main priorities his party focused on like defending seniors and families who he believes will be hurt by the Liberals' plans with the harmonized sales tax. Also, a focus of the Ontario PC's is fighting for better business conditions to create jobs in Ontario, while identifying flaws in McGuinty's government.

"Once upon a time, Dalton McGuinty claimed he would protect ordinary families. Things have changed. Today Dalton McGuinty chooses to surround himself with elites and insiders while turning a deaf ear to the people who stand to be hurt the most by this new tax," says Hudak.

The most common theme throughout the session was how "out of touch" the Liberal party has become with everyday taxpayers, seniors and working families, according to Hudak. He feels McGuinty and his provincial party continues to isolate themselves from ordinary people, saying the PC caucus is eager to meet with and stand up for families across the province.

"Today, Ontario seniors, families and small businesses know that they have a champion in the Ontario PC party," said Hudak.

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor also shared with The Times some of the highlights of the fall session he found to be very important. One example he cited is the legislation about using hand held devices while operating a motor vehicle.

"That's very significant, it will make the roads much safer," said Craitor.

He also mentioned portions of stimulus funding Fort Erie has received for improvements to Ridge Road, the Fort Erie Skatepark, the North Crescent Park Storm Sewer Project, saying without this government assistance these projects would have likely remained dormant for a long time.

"There are some really good projects that were brought forward that probably would have had to sit for a number of years," said Craitor, who is Fort Erie's provincial government representative.

continued on page 4

Tim Hudak

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Marlene McGee, left, Ray Baecher, mayor Doug Martin, Peter Gudrunas, and Julie Rivet officially cutting the ribbon at the Class of Glass event last Friday, marking the partnership between Fort Erie Heritage Arts and the Mahoney's Doll House Gallery. More events will be scheduled in the new year.

Heritage Arts and Doll House get classy with glass-themed art show

KRIS DUBÉ
Times Staff

Fort Erie Heritage Arts and the Mahoney's Doll House Gallery officially kicked of its partnership at last Friday's 'Class of Glass' art show.

Showcasing the work of artists Ray Baecher from Ridgeway and Peter Gudrunas of Port Colborne, about 50 people mingled while discussing their favourite pieces on display in the historic Bertie Hall building.

Both organizations are seeing this as an opportunity to raise awareness about one another within the local community, hoping to bring more people through the doors at the doll house. Yvonne Hopkins, doll house curator said in all the years she has been there, an event or partnership like this has never taken place and it feels great to finally see something like this come to fruition.

"When you walk through the door, it looks like a completely different building," she said.

She said this is a great opportunity to showcase the work of Niagara artists, using a heritage building as the venue.

"It really does have a warm feeling to it," said Hopkins.

Ruby Smith, Fort Erie Heritage Arts chair was thrilled to have Baecher and Gudrunas donate their time and work to the cause, saying their talent can compare with artists from all over the globe.

"We could show these artists to any city in the world," said Smith.

Baecher, an award winning artist has been making his creations since the 1970s and has a list of accomplishments on his resumé.

He said it's always rewarding to show his work in Greater Fort Erie because many of his friends and acquaintances can't make it to the shows he enters in big cities like Toronto.

"It's really nice to be here, showing my work locally," said Baecher.

Gudrunas is an award-winning glass blower and is the mastermind behind Sirius Glassworks, a selection of vases, bowls and platters made by the Port Colborne artist.

More events will be planned at the Doll House, hosted by the two partnering organizations in the new year.

'Nobody has a monopoly on fighting for seniors,' says Craitor

continued from page 3

He also mentioned the panel on northern and rural health care that was established in late April, saying its report scheduled to be presented in 2010 could turn around changes made in health care, specifically Douglas Memorial Hospital's transition to an urgent care centre.

"I still believe there's an opportunity to rock the ship as to what's happening with Fort Erie's hospital situation," said Craitor.

Responding to Hudak's claims that the Liberals are out of touch with seniors and families, Craitor feels it isn't true and says that everyone in the provincial legislature, no matter what their party affiliation is, has those demographics on the top of their priority list.

"We're all doing that. Nobody has a monopoly on fighting for seniors or fighting for the working poor," said Craitor.

"I'm in tune with that and it has always been a priority of mine."

Have you HEARD?

by Alaina Hillier, M.Cl.Sc
Registered by CASLTO
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CHRISTMAS WRAP UP

Marc Zucarelli and his wife Kristy wrapping gifts at Mark's Work Wearhouse, raising money for Big Brothers Big Sisters Fort Erie last Saturday.

ANOTHER SANTA SIGHTING

Fred and Rick Antoine having a visit with Santa Claus after he was spotted raising money for the Children's Miracle Network at Wal-Mart last Saturday.

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The Fort Erie Times

Published By:
Niagara Community Newspapers

A subsidiary of
SUN MEDIA
A Quebecor Media Company

450 Garrison Road,
Unit 1,
Fort Erie, Ontario,
L2A 1N2

Phone: (905) 871-3100
Fax: (905) 871-5243
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editorial@forterietimes.com

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Publisher:
Tim Dundas
Sales Manager
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Member
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Publications Mail
Registration #569674

Subscriptions:
1 year $85.60
G.S.T. included

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Editorial

Celebrate responsibly this holiday season

This time of year, there is one message that people need to hear and understand.

Don't drink and drive.

Everyone should comply with this all year long but more people are "celebrating" this week than during any other time. There is nothing wrong with that but it needs to be done responsibly.

Some people have probably been planning their New Year's Eve since August and are getting quite excited about wherever they might be going or the company they are having in to their home.

It's times like this when being a real friend needs to take over. If one of your guests appears to be heading to the fridge consistently throughout the evening, take their keys, offer them a spot on the couch and tell them they aren't going anywhere until the morning or call a taxi to drop them off safely.

There's no fault in having a good time this time of year, but putting your own and others' lives at risk is a huge mistake.

Have a happy holiday season and enjoy the egg nog with every little bit of ability you have to make a good decision. The people close to you will thank you... guaranteed.

AROUND TOWN

Laurie Davidson, left, and Patricia Naylor with Star the Shih-Tzu at a gift wrapping booth that has been set up this holiday season at the County Fair Mall, raising money for Niagara Action for Animals.

Media needs better treatment at torch relay

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK By Kris Dubé

In last week's editor's notebook, I wrote about the excitement leading up to the Olympic torch relay and what I expected it would mean to the local community.

My expectations were definitely exceeded when it comes to attendance and the overall spirit of everyone, but I do have a concern about the way things are organized and incidents from last week in other cities are only going to assist me when proving my point.

In both stops of the relay, members of the media were injured while trying to get the material they needed.

In Newmarket, a Sun Media newsperson was hospitalized with a head injury after a scuffle with a non-uniformed police officer that started when he was trying to get video footage. In Toronto, a photographer was also injured by police. According to an article in the Ottawa Sun, several other reporters have come forward saying they were treated by event security in an improper fashion.

Here on Monday, the members of the Niagara Regional Police posed for photos with spectators and were very accommodating to members of the media, who might have been standing slightly inside the human corridor that was being heavily enforced by people who were not police officers, but were security hired by the relay's national organizers.

There were a couple of photographers who were also hired to shoot the relay by its sponsors and they could have ripped the torch out of a carrier's hands and ran away with it compared to the access I was given.

It was nearly impossible to get a decent shot of the torch up close because some guy in a track suit seemed to purposely time his steps with mine, walking between my camera and the torchbearers most of the way up Jarvis Street.

My theory is that the security people's Olympic fever is dissipating. They've been touring across the country for almost two months and are getting tired now.

The reason I say this is because I heard one of them say "only 52 days left" to their colleague when there was a slight hold up because of people swarming with cameras of all kinds.

It's great to see so many people that excited to snap a photo with their camera phone but there needs to be a way to distinguish between those who are there out of recreation and those who are trying to do their job.

This is exactly why these other incidents I mentioned took place. Fortunately, our local police officers are a little more mild-tempered than in other places but the security folks need to realize people are very excited about the Olympic torch when it comes to a small town like Fort Erie.

The novelty might have worn off for them but it is at its peak when communities get their first glimpse of it, especially on such a beautiful morning like Monday.

The media should at least be given a 10-minute photo and interview opportunity at the start of the relay in each town it visits. How are we supposed to get the content we need to tell the story when someone employed by the event makes a conscious effort to get in the way or in other cases act with violence?

How are you supposed to get an interview with a torchbearer who is instructed to literally hop on a bus as fast as they can at the end of the route so they can head off to the next stop?

I understand time is a serious issue but designating a spot on the route where the torchbearers stand still for about five minutes isn't too much to ask I don't think. In the end, it would make things easier for everyone.

If you would like to leave me feedback, call me at (905) 871-3100 ext. 207 or email me at editorial@forterietimes.com.

Reader responds to letter about yellow signs from last week

Dear Editor,

I can assure you sir , that the persons erecting the lawn signs and those homeowners accepting them are not a bunch of "cry-babies" and we are not afraid of progress. We are not determined to hurt Crystal Beach as you claim.

We love our part of Fort Erie and in fact all of it. We do in fact embrace progress and development-- smart development.

We do not resist change, and we are not a bunch of misery loves company types either.

To re-cap the situation : The Rebstock family sold the Bay Beach lands to the town for about $2.2million. I suppose it would stay in public domain within the Town's stewardship. The Rebstocks could have easily sold directly to a developer and probably fetched triple that amount or maybe more. The Town claims that it must re-coup the investment of that $2.2 M somehow. That in my view is poppycock. We got a bargain and the llands are worth much more than the price paid.

Indeed, the Rebstocks should be remembered with a historic plaque for what they have done for our town.

Now, in order to accomodate the developer, the waterfront has to be "sacrificed" to make room for a 12 storey Condo building which of course will become a vertical gated community. When Crystal Beach Park closed in 1989, it did not take long for developers to snap up the finest waterfront on Lake Erie and convert it into a gated community. Leave it to foreign investors to show us how. That community known as the Crystal Beach Tennis and Yacht club is occupied mosty by summer residents who flee to warmer climates in the winter... Snowbirds do not contribute to our winter ecomony do they ? In fact, merchants I talk to say not much comes their way even in fair weather. I know some very fine people that own homes there. Good for them. Will a vertical gated community be any different? Will the developer insist that only year round residents can purchase there ? Hardly.

There are several properties for sale on the lake. And to add insult--our town wants to donate $50,000 towards an environmental impact study that the developer should really be paying for. Kudos to councillors Steckley and Noyes for voting agains the budget. It seems that common sense has gone out the window at Town Hall. And the real irony here is that the Niagara Region's government. has gone on record stating that more lakefront access is needed for Niagrans. Perhaps the Region should take over the Bay Beach properties and get the Town off the hook.

So, for you persons that don't like the yellow signs, please remember that freedom of speech and expression is entrenched in our constitution More signs are available by calling (905) 894 0842 or (905) 894 3623.

Paul Kassay
Crystal Beach

Councillors still against EIS being part of capital budget

Dear Editor,

A process is in place that allows items to be taken out of the entire capital budget and voted on separately as has been done in the past. The purpose allows someone who has a conflict of interest with part of the budget to abstain from voting on the part of the budget they have a conflict with and allows them to vote on the remainder of the budget. It also allows council to respect positions of councillors who cannot support an item in the budget that they have strong feelings against, so that it is voted on separately. Councilors Steckley and Noyes found themselves in this position and asked that the Environmental Impact Study be voted on separately. We do not agree that the taxpayer should pay $50,000, for the Environmental Impact Study for the Molinaro development at Bay Beach. Unfortunately the majority of council did not respect our position and insisted that the EIS expenditure not be separated as requested. The choice we were left with was to unfortunately not support the entire capital budget or vote to support, it knowing that we would be saddling the taxpayer with costs that we feel should not be borne by them. If the EIS expenditure was voted on separately, both of us would have supported the remainder of the capital budget. We have no doubt that the rest of council understood the dilemma we found ourselves in, and rather than respecting our different points of view forced us into a position that we could not support and then some of council criticized us afterward .

Councillors Anne-Marie Noyes and Bob Steckley

The TIMES Asks

What is your New Year's resolution for 2010?

Keith Schneider

"I haven't made one yet. The doctor says I should lose some weight, so maybe I'll try that."

Max Storie

"Hopefully find a good paying job once school is done."

Ashwin Elangovan

"I stopped making them. I never followed through with them in the past...so what's the point?"

Amy Priebe

"Take more time to breathe and set aside more time for myself."

What do you think?

E-mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905-871-3100, ext. 207

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Volunteers with Meals on Wheels Fort Erie getting into character before heading out to deliver to clients all over Greater Fort Erie on Monday.

Meals on Wheels volunteers putting Christmas smiles on clients' faces

KRIS DUBÉ
Times Staff

Meals on Wheels Fort Erie serves its clients all year long but around Christmas time it goes one extra step to put smiles on all its client's faces.

On Monday, a group of volunteers dressed in full-fledged Santa outfits could be found at the Meals on Wheels headquarters at Gilmore Lodge, before heading out on five different routes to deliver to 60 clients in the Greater Fort Erie area.

Executive director Nancy Ryan says providing quality service to clients every month of the year is always important but during the holiday season, adding a little bit of fun to the day can go a long way.

She mentioned that a majority of the Meals on Wheels clients served by the local program may not have that many family members still living locally, so providing some Christmas cheer can really make a difference.

"It's just a little something to brighten the clients' day," said Ryan.

"For many of out clients, we're the only people they see in a day."

-Meals on Wheels Fort Erie executive director Nancy Ryan

"For many of out clients, we're the only people they see in a day," she added.

She said not only does Meals on Wheels provide nutritious meals for clients but it is also a great way to make sure clients are safe in their own home.

"It's a security check, as much as the meal is important," said Ryan.

"Our volunteers will call us when they get home if they're concerned about someone that wasn't acting normal."

There are 200 volunteers with the Fort Erie Meals on Wheels program and 16,303 meals were provided last year.

Also on Monday, clients were given an additional frozen turkey dinner donated by Canadian Tire Financial Services.

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

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The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law.

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216(Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Jack Cox).

Carolyn J. Kett, A.M.C.T., Town Clerk, Town of Fort Erie

(2) HOLIDAY PUBLIC SKATE SCHEDULE

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DECEMBER 21	NOON – 1:30 PM	CRYSTAL RIDGE ARENA
DECEMBER 21	2:00 – 3:30 PM	LEISUREPLEX
DECEMBER 22	2:00 – 3:30 PM	LEISUREPLEX
DECEMBER 23	1:00 – 2:30 PM	CRYSTAL RIDGE ARENA
DECEMBER 30	1:00 – 2:30 PM	CRYSTAL RIDGE ARENA
DECEMBER 30	1:30 – 3:00 PM	LEISUREPLEX

CHRISTMAS PARTY BENEFITS COPE AND SOUP KITCHEN

Earlier this month, the Black Creek Community Centre held its first annual Christmas party, collecting 75 toys for Community Outreach Program Erie and $300 in gift certificates to a local grocery store for St. Michael's Church's soup kitchen.

Senior citizen's talent being appreciated all over the world

MATT DAY
Times Staff

When Wilma Saunders agreed to make as many dolls as she could, she never thought 6,000 of her creations would be putting a smile on faces all across the world.

The 89-year-old grandmother has been making rag dolls from scratch from her home for the last six years and said there are no signs of stopping.

The hobby stems from a love of sewing, a love of helping others and having extra time on her hands.

With the help of Intercede International, an organization that helps serve indigenous ministries in more than 50 countries, Saunders' dolls go along with the agency's shipments to third-world countries such as Sudan and Nicaragua.

The idea to do this came from Saunders' daughter, Lynda Valvo, after watching an episode of Oprah when she went to Africa and gave them dolls resembling different races.

"I thought, 'mom could easily do this,' so she started to make them."

Without any agencies to help them, both mother and daughter got to work, finding bargains on any materials they could find and spending hours stuffing, sewing and decorating the different rag dolls.

Valvo said she has helped her mother a bit and can't believe the time and effort she puts into her work.

"I would never be able to keep up with her. I'll go down to see her space and she'll have 40 arms and legs strung together. It's incredible."

Intercede's president, James Eagles, said he got involved after reading an article about Saunders in *The Times* almost four years ago.

"It was the perfect fit as we are often making shipments to different countries... Seeing the girls and the boys receiving those dolls and being able to call something their own is very moving."

Eagles, who has been to some of these countries, said most of the children have nothing and will keep the dolls as more than just a toy, but as something to keep their spirits high.

"The looks on their faces when they have their dolls is something very special."

Saunders said her motivation to keep going is knowing she is making a difference in a child's life.

"It makes me so happy and I'll want to work that much harder when I see a picture of one of those girls with one of my dolls."

Saunders even got a personal thank-you one year from a girl brought to Canada on an exchange program. The girl had received the doll, and it just so happened that she would be boarding with a family in Fort Erie.

"That was something I will never forget."

What makes each doll so special is that she makes them with different coloured skins, so people from all over can relate to them.

"I'll make a few changes now and then, but I'm pretty particular with what I'm making. They all need to be attractive and come complete with all the little finishing touches."

Saunders and Valvo both said without the help from the Stanton Street organization, the project would have never taken off and grown this big.

Wilma Saunders sits inside Intercede International on Stanton Street with some of her rag doll creations that will be sent off to children in third world countries soon. The 89-year-old grandmother has made more than 6,000 of them in the past six years and said there are no signs of stopping.

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Ask the Expert

Got a question? Ask a Professional!

Ask a Hair Stylist

Q: How can I plan my six mooth countdown till my wedding?

A: **Wedding Wisdom.** 6 Months: See your hairstylist to discuss your plans and book all your appointments. 5 Months: Experiment with various colour options so you can achieve the optimum look. 4 Months: Collect a scrapbook of style options and discuss these with your stylist. 3 Months: Begin weekly conditioning treatments. 2 Months: Order flowers for your hair. Have your first trial run at the salon. 1 Month: Have a second trial with your veil/tiara. Reconfirm your final cut and colour. In the period leading up to your wedding, try and give your hait a break from intensive styling methods whenevet possible. Happily ever after...Come see us to ensure a perfect day.

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Hair Stylists/Owners

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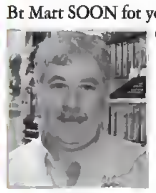
Ask a Hardware Specialist

Q: Can I still get the Home Renovation Tax Credit?

A: The Home Renovation Tax Credit is a stimulus program to eocourage people to make improvements to theit homes and coosequeotly buying goods and employiog trades people. It allows people to claim 15% ooo-refundable tax credit fot expenses of one's ptinciple dwelling. You must spend a minimum of $1,000 but not more than $10,000 with a maximum credit of $1,350. The expenses of work performed or goods acquired before February 2, 2010 are eligible for the credit. Time is running out! Come in and see the experts at Tim-Br Mart SOON fot your home teoovation oeeds. For more information on the tax credit go to www.cra-arc.gc.ca/hrtc/.



Jeff Hill
Hardware Manager

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Sat 8:00-5:00

Ask an Automotive Service Technician

Q: Where should I start with my cars wiotet maintenance?

A: Witb the wioter mooths upon us, it's important to give your car the attentioo it deserves. The first place to start is under the hood.
Provide your vehicle witb a well-deserved oil change that will help to ensure propet performance. Motor oil and engioe fluids are the life blood of your vehicle. By changiog the motot oil regularly, you are protecting a ctitical element of the eogioe's performance and investing in tbe longevity of tbe vehicle's life. Changiog your car's oil and filtet every three months will ensure that your car operates at peak efficiency. Also, don't forget to check hoses and belts fot visible cracks. Ask your mechanic to check the brakes, transmission and suspension.

Scott Eggleton
Service Manager

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Ask a Dentist

Q: Is there a need tn pre medicate with antibintics for patients who have had total jnint replacements?

A: While the guidelines have changed regarding reasons fot pre medication; prophylactic therapy is still advised io patients at high tisk of blood infections after joiot replacement. Bactetemia can be created from deotal ot medical surgery, infections of the skin, oral cavity respiratory systems ot urinary tract. Joint infections after surgery have continunusly fallen since 1980. Experts have recommended that patients planning surgery be seen by the dentist to rule out the potential threat and ensure good oral health before surgery. Post operatively, joint replacemeot patients should work to maiotaio good oral health to reduce the chances of bacteremia and oral infections. Io general, patients at high tisk of oral infections and possible bacteremia include high risk patients within 2 years after joint replacement. (Source: The Oral Care Report, 2008, Vol 18 No 1).

Terry McKay
BSc., M. Sc. D M.D.

Terry McKay
McKay Dentistry Professional Corporation
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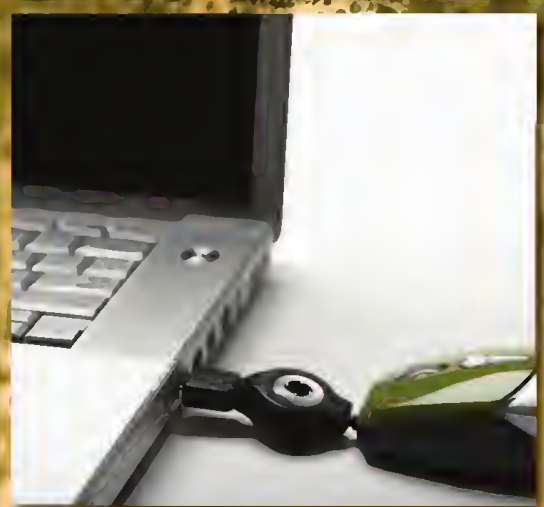

Ask a Fitness Expert

Q: Any tips on how I can keep my New Year's Resolution to get into shape?

A: Making the decision to get fit is the first step, putting that decision into action is the next. Have a list of reasons of why you want to be fit such as health benefits, e.g. reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, vanity, e.g. flatter stomach, reduced back fat, cellulite, also a list of goals, both short and long term. Goals need to be **SMART** – Specific, Measurable, Action oriented, Realistic and Timed. You need to know what you want and why you want it before you can devise an effective strategy on how to get it. Once you set your goals write them down, post them on the fridge and tell everyone – become accountable to yourself and others for your success.

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Ask a Restauranteur

Q: How does the holiday season impact the restaurant business?

A: There is no doubt that this is our busiest time of year. Restaurants become a gathering place for people to eat and exchange gifts in addition to their own family traditions. As well as increased business we alsn encountet increased vnlunteerism. The charitable mood of the season shines brightly as everyone does a little more to help others.

Most restaurants contribute significantly to local charities and dn sn gladly. We have a great community with a lnt nf big hearts and hard working volunteers. May we all do what we can to support the needs of the community and start 2010 with a positive, charitable mindset.

Happy New Year and Bon Apetit!
our Host, Peter Koutroulakis.

Peter Koutroulakis
Owner

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Ask a Cable Technician

Q: I have been long considering a surveillance set-up. What are the advantages of having a surveillance system?

A: The wave of the future in security is in video surveillance. Besides fighting terrorism, surveillance systems installed in public places, buses, or retail centers can deter crime, provide the police with leads, help citizens feel safer, and improve the economy of a crime-stricken area.

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Ask The Expert

that will be appearing in The Times on January 30th, 2010

Ask the Expert

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To find out more about this valuable service, just give me a call.

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Ask an Environmentalist

Q: Can we restore the health of an aquatic ecosystem?

A: Perhaps, but it takes time. The effects of dredging may last for several years, but many of the displaced organisms can re-establish themselves. More severe disturbances (e.g., dam construction) may cause local extinction of already endangered species. These ecosystems are unlikely to recover naturally. Mechanisms exist that allow us to help restore ecosystem health or minimize detrimental impacts.

Some of these mechanisms are:

- Environmental Legislation
- Integrated Resource Planning
- Technology
- Environmental Monitoring
- Compensatory Measures

Dean Bell
Executive with Friends of F.E. Creeks

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Ask a Business Counselor

Q: Now that I have hired an employee what are my responsibilities?

A: There are several steps required when hiring an employee. The first few steps are to:

- Ensure the employee is able to legally work in Canada and have him/her provide you with their social insurance number. Have the employee complete a TD1 - Personal Tax Credit Return form
- Contact Canada Revenue Agency to open a payroll account and to determine your payroll deductions requirements.
- Contact the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) - within 10 days of hiring.
- Review the Employment Standards Acts to ensure you are meeting your responsibilities.

Helen McCreadie

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Ask The Expert

that will be appearing in The Times on January 30th

Ask a Real Estate Expert

Q: What main factors control the sale of your house?

A: 1) Location.....Some areas are more desirable than others. But we can't change the location.

2) Condition.....You certainly can improve the condition and value of your property. We can give you suggestions of the most cost effective ways.

3) Price.....A Realtor can suggest a list price that will give you the highest possible value in the quickest time. BUT you have total control,

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Marg Ott
Broker

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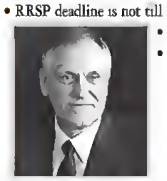
Ask an Accountant

Q: Is there anything I should do to save income tax by the end of the year?

A: Tax planning should be done all year long but here are some tax-saving tips to look at before December 31:

- offset capital gains you may have realized during the year by selling off losers by the end of the year (latest date is 3 business days before December 31);
- make payments that qualify for tax credits or deductions such as: medical expense, child-care, alimony, charitable donations, political donations, union dues, child fitness and deductible legal and accounting fees;
- buy business depreciable assets before December 31 to get a capital cost allowance write-off
- RRSP deadline is not till March 1 (start planning now)
- Registered Educational Savings Plan deadline December 31
- Home Renovation Tax Credit deadline February 2, 2010 to qualify for 2009 tax year



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CGA, ALA, CFE

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Ask the Chiropractor

Q: My back hurts, but I don't want my spine cracked. Is there anything else a Chiropractor can do for me?

A: While spinal adjustments are a Chiropractor's specialty, we are also trained in a variety of other treatment areas that allow us to provide care and relief to people who are not comfortable with our traditional treatment style of adjusting. Many Chiropractors will use soft tissue therapy (similar to massage), modalities (including electrotherapy, laser, and ultrasound), joint mobilization (a gentle form of joint movement) and nutrition to treat patients who do not wish to be adjusted. Although the adjustment is often the quickest way to gain relief, it is never a mandatory part of the visit and can easily be substituted with the above mentioned alternative therapies.

Darryl Garner
Hons. B.Kin, DC

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Do You Remember?

Due to the Christmas deadline, we received no calls about last week's photos as of yet. It is never too late to phone in or drop by the museum to identify a photo.

This week's photo, dated 1981 shows five young boys, possibly cubs, holding trophies. Can anyone help to identify these boys or what the trophies were for? Please call the museum at (905) 894-5322 or send us an email to museum.forterie.on.ca

Wheels in motion with Niagara Health Bus

Since 1999, the Niagara Region public health "Health Bus" has been providing mobile medical services to the hard to reach populations of Niagara. After 11 years of extensive travelling, unruly weather conditions, and various mechanical hurdles, the ten metre retrofitted school bus has been retired.

Wise Guys Charity, who purchased the original Health Bus, has once again generously donated a van which has been detailed similar to the Health Bus so it remains recognizable wherever it goes. This van is also functional for the transportation of Public Health staff and equipment.

"We are extremely grateful to our community partners for providing Health Bus staff a designated space to provide care," said Marilyn St. John, chief nursing officer and director, clinical services, for Niagara Region public health.

"These organizations are truly committed to supporting their clients in the most accommodating and thoughtful manner."

Partnering community organizations include Project Share, Port Cares, Community Care, Out of the Cold and The Salvation Army. New locations and site details are outlined in the 2010 Health Bus schedule, available on the Region's website.

Health Bus services include the treatment of minor medical conditions, vaccinations, pregnancy tests, free condoms, birth control, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, mental health counselling and prescriptions, when a Nurse Practitioner is available.

For more information about the Health Bus and to view the 2010 Health Bus schedule, please visit www.niagararegion.ca or call (905) 688-8248 ext. 7249 for more information.

Bricks and Bouquets

If you have a brick or bouquet send it to editorial@forterietimes.com or phone 905-871-3100, ext. 210 and leave a message

Brick

To the man who was walking his dog the same time as myself. The only difference is that I was being responsible and had my dog on a leash. His dog attacked my dog and even bit me on the leg. Once it was broken up, I didn't even receive an apology and he just walked away. You're a real gem!

Bouquet

To everyone who showed their community spirit at Monday's Olympic torch relay. It was a great turnout on a nice winter morning and everyone who attended should be thanked for showing their support for Fort Erie and Canada.

Brick

To the torch relay's security team for not letting the local media do their job and seemingly making an effort to get in their way even though there was plenty of room to work with.

Bouquet

To everyone who donated to local charities this holiday season. This is important all-year round but especially at Christmas.

Brick

To people who claim to know way more than what they really do. It's very simple, don't claim to be an expert when you are hardly an amateur.

Bouquet

To my wife who wanted a bouquet of flowers for Christmas. This is as close as it will get for you honey. Maybe next year!

Brick

To Mother Nature for not providing a White Christmas this year. At press time on Tuesday of this week, there was very little snow on the ground.

Bouquet

To parents who keep the spirit of Santa Claus alive by not breaking the real news to them. This is what makes the holidays special for children.

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The Fort Erie Times

The Times office will be closed December 25th-December 28th & January 1st-January 3rd.
Please note the early deadlines for the Classified and Classified Display ads throughout the holidays for the Times & Shopping Times.

Issue	Deadline
January 2nd	December 29th 10am
January 6th	December 30th 2pm
January 9th	January 6th 3pm

Movie: The Thief Lord
A holiday week movie for nearly all ages (Rated PG, 98 minutes). Admission $2, Centennial Branch, 7 p.m.

Afternoon of Guitar Hero and Rock Band
Jan. 29th, 2 to 5 p.m. Centennial Branch

St. Vincent De Paul serves 156 needy families

During the holiday season, community generosity is something you can see just about anywhere you go around town.

The St. Vincent De Paul Christmas food pantry at St. George Catholic School has significantly increased the amount of people it serves in the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach and Stevensville areas since it started in the 1990s, with 156 families currently being provided with presents and Christmas dinners through the charity.

With the hard work of several volunteers and donations from local schools and churches, the church hall was nearly filled to the brim with food and toys last Friday before clients came to pick up their share.

"This community has been so generous," said Judy Learn, president of the St. Vincent De Paul chapter at St. George's.

Joan Beteau, secretary and treasurer, said it really is overwhelming to see how many businesses pull through in a such a time of need when it is difficult to raise awareness without holding fundraising events in the community. The success of the initiative relies solely on word of mouth and people making the effort to donate because it is something they truly want to do.

"The only thing we can do is beg and borrow," Beteau chuckled.

Both agreed that people who are in need must realize being a church parishioner is in no way shape or form a pre-requisite to be served by the local food pantry, considering most families on the receiving end are from outside the church, but in the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach and Stevensville communities.

It can be a struggle collecting enough for everyone, but in the end it comes down to a lot of hard work and dedication from volunteers and the generosity of the community that makes this effort a success year after year.

"We're just doing what we can to help out," said Beteau.

Learn continued to say how appreciative everyone is of the support businesses and residents provide during the holiday season but the truth of the matter is that families don't just struggle at Christmas and putting food on the table all-year round is a constant challenge for a lot of them.

"We have a lot of clients that need it all year long," said Learn.

Throughout the year, over 100 families are served by the charitable effort and are able to receive support once a month by dropping by on a Monday, Wednesday or Wednesday at the St. Vincent De Paul location at St. George's Catholic Church in Ridgeway.

St. Vincent De Paul volunteers Marie Higgins, left, Jane Kaiser, Lorraine Granville, Eleanor Villeneuve, Anne Courtney, Joan Beteau, Judy Learn and Ron Villeneuve with Father Stanley Ksciuk putting together the large collection of food and toys donated by members of the community and businesses to the annual Christmas food pantry, located at St. George's Catholic Church in Ridgeway. The charitable initiative serves Ridgeway-Crystal Beach and Stevensville.

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HOLIDAY Wish List EVENT

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Joe Caligiuri of the Fort Erie Meteors tries to work his way around a defender in a recent home game. The Mets split two inter-league games this week, winning one at home to Stratford and losing 4-1 in Cambridge Saturday. Fort Erie will host the Stoney Creek Warriors at 7:45 p.m. tonight at the Leisureplex.

LORD STANLEY COMES TO TOWN

Claire and Carly Nevinger, along with Carol Montironi getting a glimpse of the Stanley Cup at Rosehill Auction last Saturday. Photos taken by Lakehouse Photography have been uploaded to Greater Fort Erie Minor Hockey's website and can be purchased in honour of Andy Passero.

Meteors lose 4-1 in Cambridge

They were outshot, but not outplayed.

That's what Fort Erie Meteors' head coach Yvan Charrois had to say about last Saturday's 4-1 loss in Cambridge.

It was the team's second game in a row against a team from the Midwestern Conference and for 50 minutes, the Meteors were looking poised for a 1-0 win.

Fort Erie's Hayden Molen – who has picked up his game lately scoring six goals in his last eight – opened the scoring seven minutes in on a goal from Braeden Walker and Chris Lane.

That lead held until midway through the third period until the Winter Hawks finally solved Fort Erie netminder Colton Sauer.

The Meteors then fell apart as Cambridge poured three more quick ones in and took the contest.

"We played decent road hockey until that period. They outshot us, but I don't think they dominated us."

Sauer had yet another solid performance in net stopping 40 of 43 shots while Cambridge's goalie only had to face 18 shots.

"We played good enough to win and good enough to lose," said Charrois. "The game was close and it could have gone either way."

Ultimately, it was penalty trouble that did the Mets in.

With 916 penalty minutes – the most in their division – Fort Erie has had their problems staying out of the box.

Down 2-1 and pressing, Fort Erie got caught down a man and Cambridge made no mistake in putting the game out of reach.

"[Penalties] have been terrible for us this year. We address it every week, every game, every period... we're a young team and we're going to make mistakes."

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December 31st, 2009
Doors open 6:00pm

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Double Baked Potatoes
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after December 26th $80.00 *(no refunds)*
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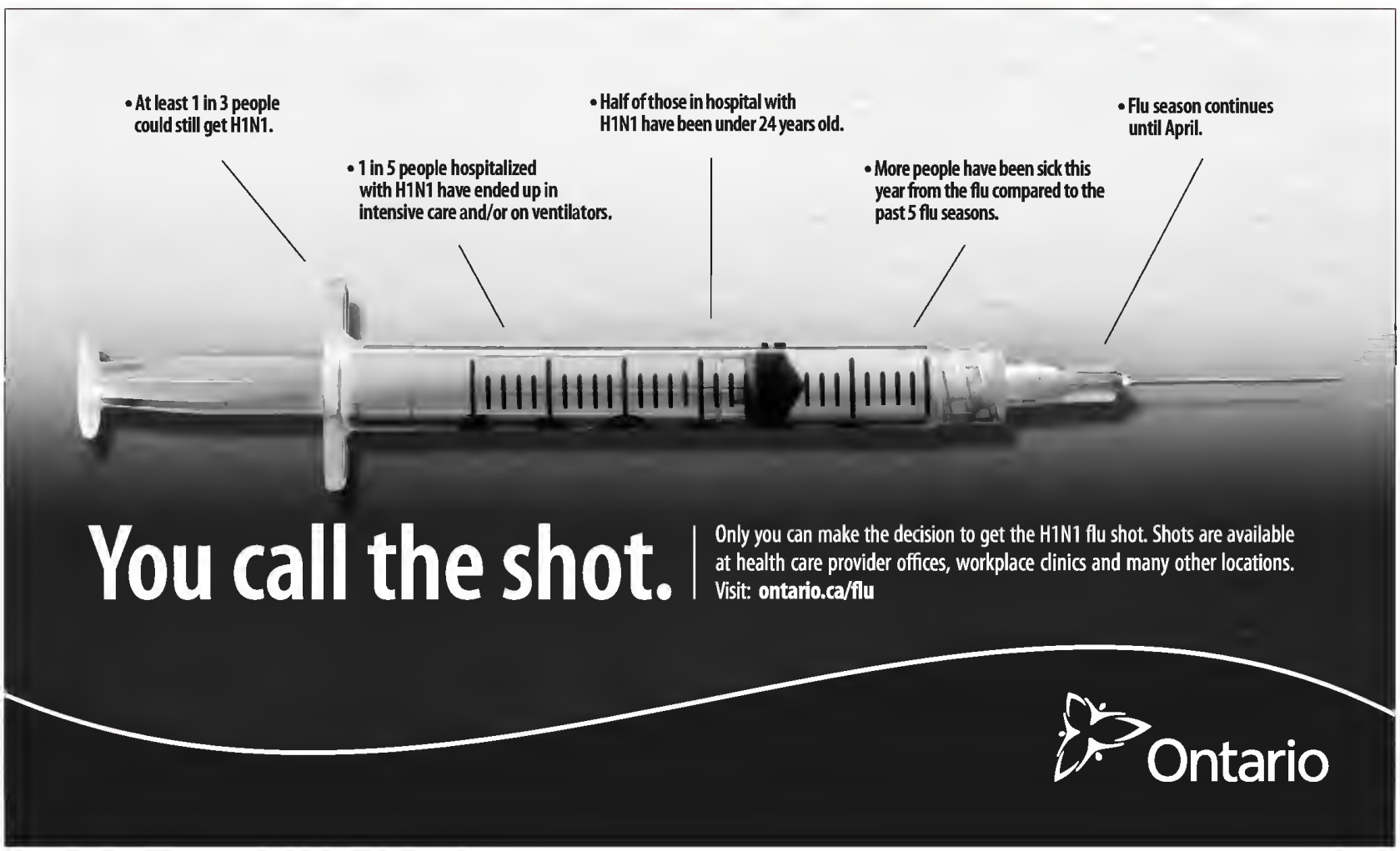
Tods and Relics executive board donating a $5,700 cheque to the Tender Wishes Foundation. Over the last eight years, the board has raised $30,000 for the cause.

ANIMALS NEED DONATIONS TOO

Fort Erie SPCA employee Ken Tremblay and a german shepherd mix up for adoption, with the large collection of food donated by members of the community.



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General Employment A800

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Apartments Unfurnished A610

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General Employment A800

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EDUCATION

Notices

Community Services

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11767885

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF JENNIE FLORENCE MARIE GREEN

All persons having claims against the Estate of Jennie Florence Marie Green, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, wbo died on the 18th day of November 2009, are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of January 2010, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of wbose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2009.

Joan Barrett and Eileen S. Kahler, Estate Trustees by their solicitors
Jones, Jamieson & Redekop
288 Ridge Road, Ridgeway, Ontario L0S 1N0
Telephone 905-894-0220 • Fax 905-894-5356

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the estate of CONSTANCE MAE THOMSON, late of the Town of Fort Erie in the REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY of NIAGARA, who died on or about the 9th day of December, 2009, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee on or before the 15th day of January, 2010; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED at Fort Erie, this 16th day of December, 2009.

Wayne Robert Thomson, Estate Trustee,
by his Solicitors,
HAGAN & McDOWELL
29 Jarvis Street, P.O. Box 68
Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 5M6
Attn: Kenneth Hagan
905-871-4440

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF RICHARD EARL CROOP

All persons having claims against the estate of Richard Earl Croop, late of the Town of Fort Erie, Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 31st day of August 2009, are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of February 2010, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

DATED this 4th day of December, 2009.

Peter Robert BonEnfant, Estate Trustee
Estate of Richard Earl Croop
P.O. Box 239, 241 Ridge Road
Ridgeway, Ontario L0S 1N0

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the estate of PAULINE SALTZBERRY, late of the Town of Fort Erie in the REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY of NIAGARA, who died on or about the 29th day of November, 2009, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee on or before the 15th day of January, 2010; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED at Fort Erie, this 16th day of December, 2009.

Craig Curtis Saltzberry, Estate Trustee,
by his Solicitors,
HAGAN & McDOWELL
29 Jarvis Street, P.O. Box 68
Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 5M6
Attn: Kenneth Hagan
905-871-4440

Announcements

Lost & Found A950

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Personals

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Flooring/ Carpets/Tile S210

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11731573

Birthday greetings

GATOR'S 50TH BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE
Come join Gator for some food and drinks to celebrate his next journey to the white tees and the Senior Tour!
Sunday, December 27th at 7 p.m.
The Plaice Restaurant.
Best wishes only please.
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Birthday greetings

Happy 7th Birthday
Alex (LA)!
Love Grandma and Uncle Sam.
11774611

Look who's 16!
Happy birthday,
ADRIANNE!
Love Mom,
Chris, Matt, and Robert.
11774419

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AND ALL THE
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Announcements/greetings

10 Year Missions Officer Milestone Award
presented to
Marc Lessard
by Intercede International Chairman Ray Dortono and President James Eagles.
11772827

10 Year Missions Staff Milestone Award
presented to
Eliud Herrera
by Intercede International Chairman Ray Dortono and President James Eagles.
11772599

Volunteer of the Year Award
presented to
Mrs. Wilma Saunders
by Intercede International Chairman Ray Dortono and President James Eagles.
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Announcements/greetings

Volunteer of the Year Award
presented to
Mrs. Sophia Marshall
by Intercede International Chairman Ray Dortono and President James Eagles.
11772964

We are sad within our memory,
Lonely are our thoughts today.
For the one loved so dearly,
Has forever been called away.

Memoriam Verse #17
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today
11238581

Volunteer of the Year Award
presented to
Mr. Reginald Teal
by Intercede International Publications Manager Alan Doerksen.
11772674

Deaths

CARON, Geraldine (Gerry) - Peacefully at Crescent Park Lodge on Dec. 18, 2009 Gerry slipped away. Predeceased by husband Jim and daughter Carolyn. Cherished mother to Jim Jr., Cathy (Bush) and George. Lovingly referred to as Gram to her 12 grandchildren and G to her 18 great-grandchildren. Gerry will forever be in our hearts. At Gerry's request cremation took place and a celebration of her life will be held in the New Year where family will receive friends. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, Ridgeway, ON (905)894-0120.
11778532

Announcements

Deaths

HOYLE, Wayne Arthur - at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Saturdey December 19, 2009. Wayne Hoyle, husband of the late Deirdrie (Dee) Hoyle (2006) and loving father of Leslie Hoyle (Curtis) end Laurie (Steve) Vorstenbosch. Much loved brother of Percy, Gary (Pat), Pauline and cherished grandfather of Justin, Jordan, Megan, Lexie and John. Predeceased by his brother Jim and his sister Sandra. Funeral services will be conducted in the Sherkston Community Centre on Monday December 28th at 11 o'clock. Entombment will take place at Pleasantview Memoriel Gardens. Memoriel donations would be appreciated to Tender Wishes. Arrangements entrusted to **THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME.**
11777648

LIOTA, Sister Angela Marguerite - of the Fort Erie Redemptoristine Community completed her life at the Greater Niagara General Hospital in Fort Erie on Thursday, December 17, 2009. Mourning the passing of Sister Angela Liota are the Sisters formally of Fort Erie Community and the entire Redemptoristine Order of 46 monasteries. She is also survived by her sister Helen (Lee) Liota of Hamilton, cousins, nephew and many friends. The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop James M. Wingle, D.D. - Bishop of St. Catharines in St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Monday, December 21st at 11:00 a.m. The Interment followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery after the Holy Mass. Arrangements were entrusted to **THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME** in Ridgeway.
11777655

LYON, Sheila Henderson (Duff) - At the age of 78 years, born February 12, 1931. Arrived in Canada in 1966 and lived in the Niagara Region until her passing at the Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie on Tuesday, December 22nd 2009 due to complications of Diabetes. Sheila was predeceased by her beloved husband Jack. Survived by her children Cy, Ron (Heather), Jackie (Andy) and Ian, 13 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren. Following Sheila's wishes cremation has taken place. If so desired memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements entrusted to **THE FORT ERIE CHAPEL of the DAVIDSON FUNERAL HOMES** 21 Wintemute St. (905) 871-2702. Online condolence and guest register available at www.davidsonfuneralhomes.com
11777677

McCOMB, Audrey - after a courageous battle with cancer at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Thursday December 17, 2009 in her 81st year. Audrey McComb, beloved mother of Teresa Rice (David) and Susan (Tim) Milligan. Much loved grandmother of Jackleen (Dustin) and Timothy Milligan Jr. Also survived by great grandchildren Keaton and Maygan. Private arrangements were entrusted to **THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME** in Ridgeway.
11777664

McNEIL, Daniel - at Northland Pointe on Monday December 21st, 2009. Daniel McNeil, beloved husband of Laurel and dear brother of Peter, Charles, Jim, Harriet, Vivian and Helen. Stepfather of Raymond and Randy Beroud and Ruby (Smith). Private funeral arrangements are entrusted to **THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME.**
11777633

Deaths

SCOTT, Ina Marie - at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Wednesday December 18, 2009. Ina Scott, wife of the late Ronald Scott (2001) and loving mother of Ron (Jecqueline) and Jack (Jill). Dear sister of Dorothy (Andy) Vasko and much loved grandmother of Danny, Katelyn, Steven, Michael, Brandon and also survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by brothers Mervin, Donald, Arthur, Ronald Glenn and sisters Edna, Rena and Genevieve. Funeral services were conducted in the Windmill Point Church of Christ (Disciples) last Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment took place in Windmill Point Church Cemetery. Memoriel donations were directed to the Windmill Point Church of Christ (Disciples)
11777629

In memoriam

In loving memory of
BRIAN EBERSOLE
who passed away 20 years ago,
December 27, 1989.
Remembering a loving husband, father,
son, brother
and more recently Grandpa.
Although so many years have passed, it
still seems like yesterday. But your life
gave us so many memories to be kept
alive, especially so your little
granddaughters can learn about their
Papa.
We miss you. Forever in our hearts.
Love, Marge, Tracey, Gerald,
Evelani Rose & Kaie Brianne
11775124

Card of thanks

GEORGE GIULIANI

The family of the late George Giuliani wish to express our deepest gratitude to our family, friends, neighbours and co-workers for all the love, kindness and support during our recent loss.
Thank you for your sympathy cards, Mass cards, charitable donations and for the beautiful flowers, fruit baskets, and for all the food sent to our home.
A special thank you to the teachers and staff at Our Lady of Victory School. Your support has been incredible and we really appreciate everything you have done.
Also to all of the parents and classmates of Marissa, George, Rebecca, Johnny and cousin Maria who came and visited, or offered help.
To George's co-workers at Fallsview Casino and Casino Niagara. Your kindness and generosity has overwhelmed our family. George loved his job and the people he worked with and we know he will be missed.
To everyone at Lamons Canadian Gasket/ Exacta Supply - thank you so much for all of your love and support and for everything you have done and continue to do.
Thank you to the pallbearers, George's cousins: Gino, William, John, Gino, Rob and Lorenzo.
Also to Gino Botticella for the beautiful wooden cross made for George.
To the E.M.S., firemen and police officers for their kindness and efforts when they were in our home.
Thank you to Darren and Benner Funeral Home for all their help.
And finally, a very special thank you to Father Wesley for all his support through this difficult time, and for the beautiful Mass said for his friend George.
With love, The Giuliani Family.
11776797

Carrier of the Month

Andrew McCombs

is our Times Carrier of the Month for December, 2009.
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Reflection

The Holidays allow each of us to reflect on the importance of friends and family.

To the many within our community that have entrusted us with funeral services, we sincerely thank you.

To everyone who has experienced a loss, it is our hope that during this holiday season you will find hope and strength.

Respectfully,
Darren Flagg

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